

Chorleywood – Wonder Wood Project
Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Comments
1. What will this play area look like?	<p>The Wonder Wood on Chorleywood Common is to be a unique play space, in keeping with the natural environment. All equipment will be made from natural, raw, untreated English Oak wood.</p> <p>Conceptual images can be seen at Appendix 1 – designed by Wildwood Dens UK who have recently installed two smaller wild wood dens on the A404 side of Chorleywood Common, which is the opposite side of the common to site 15a.</p> <p>All elements of the play space will be natural and will create a habitat as the wood will also form insect hotels.</p>
2. Where can we park?	<p>The Wonder Wood will be located close to the village side of the Common, people will be expected to walk to the site. Optional walking routes are detailed at point 3 below.</p> <p>There is free car parking available at the Ferry Car Park, located on Lower Road. There is also car parking at the Station Car Park, however there is a fee to pay and during the week this is usually full with commuters.</p> <p><i>There will be NO additional parking included as part of this project and the station access road has parking restrictions, therefore people are unable to park on this road.</i></p>
3. How can we walk to the site?	<p>There are a number of walking routes to the site:</p> <p>1). Via the stairs (there are 3 flights of stairs) off of Lower Road and into the station car park, you can then walk through the car park to the site, following the pedestrian road markings. <i>Please note, this route is not suitable for buggies or wheelchairs.</i></p> <p>2). There is a footpath at the back of North Road, which brings you to the entrance to the station car park and into the site. <i>Please note, this route is steep but achievable with buggies.</i></p> <p>3). There is a pathway on the road through to Chorleywood Bottom, which then ends at the entrance to the cottages and the Old Shepherd Public House – you can then walk through here and across the common. <i>Please note that the grass on this part of the common is long and there are not any mown footpaths.</i></p>

	Please note you will be required to cross the station car park access road in order to gain access to the site. This road is quieter outside of commuter times.
4. What about putting in footpaths?	There will be no additional footpaths included as part of this project. Formal footpaths are prohibited as part of Chorleywood Common's Scheme of Regulation.
5. What about traditional play equipment?	The Wonder Wood will be mainly climbing, jumping and balancing, with some rope play and a hammock, as well as some sensory elements (please see Appendix 1 – Concept Designs). There will be a high emphasis on the union of play and nature and the opportunity for children to explore this.
6. What about toilets?	Three Rivers District Council does not include toilets as part of play space developments and therefore will not be including any additional facilities here.
7. Once you start building a play space it opens up the possibility of other developments on the common	There are restrictive measures in place at both a local level and nationally to prevent development on Common Land. The play space will also need to go through these formal processes and this includes submitting an application to the Planning Inspectorate.
8. What about the wildlife?	<p>The Wonder Wood will be developed to work in harmony with the habitats, flora and fauna on the Common, just as the Wildwood Dens have done on the other side of the Common. An Ecological Impact Assessment has been completed, which can be viewed in full in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The tender specification and requirements for the project details these clearly and will be a requirement of the final project brief. There is a particular focus on the mitigation of the slow worm habitats and this will be carefully managed to ensure this wonderful species is protected, both during and after the construction process.</p> <p>It is important to note that the children will be accessing the play space during the daytime and will therefore have minimal impact on the nocturnal activity of the local wildlife.</p>
9. What about all of the trees being cut down?	<p>The tree survey identified that there are some trees which will need to be removed regardless of whether or not the Wonder Wood is created.</p> <p>The majority of trees will be retained and will be cut back to provide natural surveillance into the site. A lot of the low level shrub land will be retained in order to provide a natural barrier around the Wonder Wood.</p>

	<p>There is a balance which will be managed throughout the project process between natural surveillance, privacy for local residents and the existing wildlife. Any tree works will be carried out in accordance with the Management and Maintenance plans for Chorleywood Common.</p> <p>It is hoped that through the removal and cutting back of a small number of trees, there may be the opportunity for grassland to establish in certain areas.</p>
<p>10. The location is not ideal due to the proximity of the railway line and road?</p>	<p>The times that children and local families will predominantly be accessing the site is outside of the peak commuter times, which are a lot quieter.</p> <p>The majority of the shrub land will be retained to provide a natural barrier to the site and the play elements will be located towards the back of the site. There are many play spaces across the UK where fencing is not included. Assessment of the site indicates that due to the nature of the site it is not as widely used by dog walkers and that if it is they are likely to be on a lead. Users of the play space will need to be mindful of the access points and the station access road.</p> <p>There are current investigations ongoing to look at the surrounding roads regardless of whether or not the Wonder Wood is installed, especially as there are already a high number of people walking along these routes to access the station or the Common.</p> <p>There are many play spaces located near to railway lines and many children gain great enjoyment from watching trains go past.</p> <p>As part of this process a full risk assessment will be completed to assess the risks and the benefits of the scheme.</p>
<p>11. What about health and safety of the site and the access to it?</p>	<p>A pre-inspection will be conducted by the Play Inspection Company to assess the site and the access to it. In addition a full Post Installation Inspection of the site will be completed by a Registered Play Inspection Inspector, which is the procedure for all Council owned and managed play spaces. In addition</p> <p>Access and proximity of the road has been detailed at questions 2, 3, 4 and 10.</p>

<p>12. There isn't going to be a fence which is dangerous.</p>	<p>The majority of the shrub land will be retained to provide a natural (although not impenetrable) barrier to the site and the play elements will be located towards the back of the site. There are many play spaces across the UK where fencing is not included. Assessment of the site indicates that due to the nature of the site it is not as widely used by dog walkers and that if it is they are likely to be on a lead. Users of the play space will need to be mindful of the access points and the station access road.</p> <p>The existing Wildwood Dens on the other side of the Common do not have a fence surrounding them and there have been no issues with dogs wandering into the site or children wandering out of the site onto the horse track or nearby car park.</p>
<p>13. Chorleywood is much bigger than the village area surrounding Lower Road, so why is it located here?</p>	<p>Chorleywood Parish Council have recently installed two Wildwood Dens on the A404 side of the Common, which is located close to the newly installed pedestrian crossing points, allowing easy access from this side of the Parish. The existing Swillett play area serves the other side of Chorleywood, which is also due to be upgraded as part of the Council's capital programme. This therefore leaves a gap in provision for the community in the middle section of Chorleywood, which the proposed site at 15A will serve.</p>
<p>14. Chorleywood Common is already a natural play area – why is this needed?</p>	<p>The Wonder Wood concept gives children the opportunity to use their whole body and develop their gross motor skills. The space will allow children to challenge themselves and take part in risky play within a safe environment, which is an important part of self-development and awareness. The concept will include the opportunity for swinging, climbing, jumping and balancing as well as sensory play, which is extremely important for those with additional needs.</p> <p>The Wonder Wood will also be a focal point and meeting point for many children and their families, giving children the opportunity to interact, socialise and meet new people, which is an important aspect for developing social skills. The combination of the play space, with the natural environment will also help to develop and nurture children's understanding and appreciation of nature and the habitats that the surround them. It is hoped that by creating this natural play area, it will encourage more children and families to access the common.</p>
<p>15. What about disability access?</p>	<p>The site is located next to the station car park, which has provision for those with a disability. Access can then be gained from the car park into the site. Due to the restrictions</p>

	of common land, formal pathways will not be included as part of this scheme, however the access routes into the site will be created to be wide enough and at the appropriate gradient to allow wheelchair access. Within the Wonder Wood there will also be inclusive equipment and elements to cater for a wide range of disabilities and additional support needs – this includes hammocks, tactile surfaces and musical features.
16. What is the view of Chorleywood Parish Council?	As landowners, Chorleywood Parish Council is yet to discuss the play space provision and will do this once they have all of the information required.

This is the current situation regarding the proposal for the Wonder Wood and will be updated as the project develops or if anything changes relating to legislation.